

Claims

1. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a first reflective element having a first field of view;
a second reflective element having a second field of view,
5 the second field of view being wider than the first field of view; and
a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
backing assembly supporting the first reflective element and also
supporting the second reflective element.
2. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the second
reflective element is formed of one of plastic and glass.
3. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the first reflective
element is formed of one of plastic and glass.
4. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein a portion of the
backing assembly supporting the second reflective element is formed in a
desired shape of the second reflective element.

5. The mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein an orientation of the second reflective element is adjustable independently of the first reflective element.

6. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a first reflective element having a first field of view;
a second reflective element having a second field of view,
5 the second field of view being wider than the first field of view; and
a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
backing assembly supporting the first reflective element and also
supporting the second reflective element, wherein an orientation of the
second reflective element is adjustable independently of the first reflective
10 element in accordance with displacement of a portion of the backing
assembly.

7. The mirror assembly of claim 6 wherein the backing
assembly further comprises:
a first wall;
a second wall opposing the first wall, wherein the second
5 wall supports the second reflective element; and
a hinge interconnecting the first and second walls, the hinge
being flexible to enable adjustment of a relative position between the first
and second walls.

8. The mirror assembly of claim 7 further comprising a cantilevered member projecting from one of the first and second walls, the other wall being pivotable with respect to the cantilevered member.

9. The mirror assembly of claim 8 further comprising a retention member operatively connected to the second wall, the retention member opposing displacement of the second wall with respect to the first wall.

10. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the second reflective element is formed of one of plastic and glass.

11. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the first reflective element is formed of one of plastic and glass.

12. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein a portion of the second wall is formed in a desired shape of the second reflective element.

13. The mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the second reflective element is adjustable independently of the first reflective element.

14. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
- a mirror housing;
 - a reflective element;
 - an indicator light assembly for generating a light signal; and
- 5 a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the backing assembly supporting the reflective element and also supporting the indicator light assembly.

15. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein the indicator light assembly projects light away from a viewable surface of the reflective element.

16. The mirror assembly of claim 14 further comprising a motor supported by the housing, the motor supporting the backing assembly and being displaceable to adjust a position of the reflective element and the indicator light assembly.

17. The mirror assembly of claim 17 wherein the reflective element is formed of one of plastic and glass.

18. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein the indicator light assembly comprises:

a light source;

a lens for focusing light generated by the light source; and

5 a housing, the housing supporting the light source and the lens.

19. The mirror assembly of claim 18 wherein the backing assembly includes a backing plate which supports the reflective element and the indicator light assembly.

20. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein the light assembly is located adjacent to a side surface of the reflective element.

21. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein the light assembly is located adjacent to one of a top and a bottom surface of the reflective element.

22. The mirror assembly of claim 14 wherein the backing plate assembly includes a backing plate which is generally symmetric about an axis, wherein the reflective element and indicator light assembly define a shape which is symmetric about the axis, and wherein the reflective
5 element is asymmetric about the axis.

23. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a first reflective element having a first field of view;
a second reflective element having a second field of view,
5 the second field of view being wider than the first field of view;
an indicator light assembly for generating a light signal, the
indicator light assembly being supported by the housing; and
a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
backing assembly supporting the first reflective element and the second
10 reflective element.

24. The mirror assembly of claim 23 wherein the indicator light
assembly comprises:
a light source;
a lens for focusing light generated by the light source; and
5 a housing, the housing supporting the light source and the
lens.

25. The mirror assembly of claim 24 wherein the light source
comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes (LEDs).

26. The mirror assembly of claim 25 wherein the LEDs operate simultaneously to provide a single light emission.

27. The mirror assembly to claim 25 wherein the LEDs operate sequentially to provide a directional component to the indicator light.

28. The mirror assembly of claim 24 wherein the light source further comprises a light source and a light pipe to provide light to the lens.

29. The mirror assembly of claim 23 wherein the second reflective element is disposed below the first reflective element and the indicator light assembly is interposed between the first and second reflective elements.

30. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a first reflective element having a first field of view;
a second reflective element having a second field of view,
5 the second field of view being wider than the first field of view;
an indicator light assembly for generating a light signal; and
a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
backing assembly supporting the first reflective element, the second
reflective element, and the indicator light assembly.

31. The mirror assembly of claim 30 wherein the first reflective
element is formed of one of plastic and glass.

32. The mirror assembly of claim 30 wherein the second
reflective element is formed of one of plastic and glass.

33. The mirror assembly of claim 30 wherein a portion of the
backing assembly supporting the second reflective element is formed in a
desired shape of the second reflective element.

34. The mirror assembly of claim 30 wherein an orientation of the second reflective element is adjustable independently of the first reflective element.

35. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a reflective element;
an spot light assembly for generating a light signal; and
5 a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
backing assembly supporting the first reflective element and the spot light
assembly, the backing being displaceable relative to the mirror housing,
and the spot light assembly being disposed on the backing assembly
opposite the reflective element so that when the backing assembly is in a
10 first position, the mirror housing obstructs illumination from the spot light
assembly, and when the backing assembly is in a second position, the
mirror housing does not obstruct illumination from the spot light assembly.

36. The mirror assembly of claim 35 wherein the backing
assembly further comprises a backing plate supporting the reflective
element and the spot light assembly, the motor displacing the backing
assembly relative to the housing.

37. The mirror assembly of claim 36 further comprising a control
system for detecting a plurality of modes of operation of the vehicle,
wherein the control system generates signals to the motor to expose the
spot light assembly in response to selected modes.

38. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror housing;
a reflective element;
a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the
5 backing assembly supporting the reflective element; and
a first indicator light assembly for generating a light signal,
the first indicator light assembly including a light source and an exit port
located remotely from the light source, the exit port directing the light
source away from the mirror assembly, and a light pipe for transporting
10 light from the light source to the exit port.

39. The mirror assembly of claim 38 wherein the light pipe
comprises a light transporting material.

40. The mirror assembly of claim 38 wherein the light pipe is
formed by providing reflective material on opposing surfaces of the mirror
housing and the backing plate.

41. The mirror assembly of claim 40 wherein the light source
comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes (LEDs).

42. The mirror assembly of claim 38 further comprising a second light assembly for providing illumination through the mirror housing.

43. The mirror assembly of claim 42 wherein the second light assembly includes a light source for generating a second light signal and a lens for focusing the second light signal, wherein the light signal is projected in a direction other than the first light signal.

44. A mirror assembly comprising:
a first module including:
a first housing;
a first reflective element disposed within and carried
5 by the housing, the first reflective element having a first field of view; and
a second module including:
a second housing;
at least one of a second reflective element having a
second field of view wider than the first field of view and an indicator light
10 assembly,
wherein the first and second modules are interconnected.

45. The mirror assembly of claim 44 wherein the first module is
disposed above the second module.

46. The mirror assembly of claim 44 wherein the light source
assembly faces a rearward direction.

47. The mirror assembly of claim 44 wherein the light source
assembly further comprises a light source for generating light and a lens
for focusing the light prior to illumination from the second housing,
wherein the lens and second reflective element define an integral unit.

48. A mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
- a mirror housing;
 - a light source supported within the mirror housing, the light source projecting light;
 - 5 a reflective element, the reflective element receiving light from the light source at an entry port, the reflective element being coated with reflective material and transporting light from the entry port to an exit port, the exit port being defined in accordance with the removal of reflective material, the reflective element thereby forming a light pipe; and
 - 10 a backing assembly supported by the mirror housing, the backing assembly supporting the reflective element.

49. The mirror assembly of claim 48 wherein the reflective element is formed of plastic.

50. The mirror assembly of claim 48 wherein the reflective element is formed of glass, the reflective element having a working surface facing an operator and an opposing surface, wherein the reflective coating applied to the working surface enables at least some light to pass
- 5 therethrough.

51. The mirror assembly of claim 48 wherein the reflective element has a working surface facing an operator and a opposing surface, wherein the exit port is formed on the working surface and the entry port is formed on the opposing surface.